

AmeriCorps

Selected as the 2012 "Volunteer Team of the Year" by the Boys and Girls Club of Metro Atlanta, Youth Villages AmeriCorps provides academic support to at-risk students at the Youth Villages Inner Harbour Campus while also providing community strengthening activities to support nonprofits and community organizations. In 2012, AmeriCorps members provided more than 2,000 hours of one-on-one tutoring sessions in literacy and math to 130 students, leading to an increase by one grade level by 80 percent of youth meeting criteria. Members also provided 2,000 hours of individualized life skills sessions to 101 older youth, of which 85 percent of students meeting criteria increased competency by 35 percent in multiple life skills domains. Youth Villages AmeriCorps members completed 6,000 hours of service with 40 local nonprofits and organizations and leveraged more than 1,500 volunteers, including youth in care, corporate/civic groups, and individuals from the community.

AmeriCorps NCCC

AmeriCorps NCCC team Delta 5 demolished four cabins at a campsite that was deemed unsafe for the residents of Youth Villages. The team also painted the amphitheater, re-painted the stairs at the track, and built an exercise playground that will be used by the older youth residents. Demolishing the old cabins provided the residents with safe areas for therapy and education. The team gained a greater understanding of special education, how to act sensitively around those with special needs, and how to assist them.

AmeriCorps VISTA

The Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation in Atlanta sponsors four AmeriCorps VISTA members. Through the efforts of their VISTA members, the Lighthouse annual fundraiser has seen an increase in donations each year. This year, the fundraiser generated more than \$209,000 thanks to the volunteer recruitment, marketing, and social media promotion provided by the VISTA members. The Foundation has also been able to expand their service clinics to new counties in Georgia because of the support they received from VISTA. The Lighthouse was asked by the city of Chamblee to oversee the annual "Taste of Chamblee" because the city of Chamblee was impressed by the successful the Lighthouse fundraiser. The Lighthouse implemented a new fundraiser last year, a fun run that raised \$12,000, which a VISTA member organized in about six weeks.

Senior Corps

The Foster Grandparent Program has a presence at Moody Air Force Base Child Development Center. Senior Volunteer Connection (FGP sponsor in Valdosta) currently has eight Foster Grandparents serving 55 preschool children providing care in the area of developing motor skills, language skills, and social skills. In 2012, these volunteers served 9,434 hours. In the past three years, one volunteer has been awarded the Angel Award for outstanding service during the annual Volunteer recognition ceremony in April of each year.

Social Innovation Fund

Atlanta CareerRise collaborative serves the 26-county Greater Atlanta region and was awarded an initial grant of \$300,000 over two years by Social Innovation Fund (SIF) intermediary Jobs for the Future, which they will match dollar-for-dollar. The SIF investment will allow them to build on their Work Ready efforts which include job profiling, worker assessment and provision of training, and support services to allow low-income individuals to earn a recognized, portable job readiness certificate. In particular, the collaborative focuses efforts on middle-skill jobs in high-growth industries, which require more than high school but less than a four-year degree. Their industry focus will be on the health care, biotechnology, and logistics sectors, which make up the largest share of the region's labor market. Over two years, the collaborative intends to serve 175 job seekers, placing 113 into jobs, and 175 incumbent workers with 160 receiving wage increases.